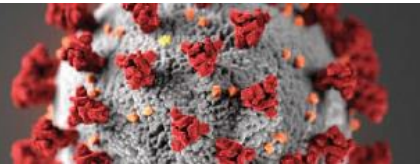




CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS



Wednesday, March 11, 2020

-The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 a pandemic. An outbreak is deemed to have become a pandemic when it has spread from human-to-human on several continents. According to the WHO, there are now more than 118,000 cases in 114 countries, and 4,291 people have lost their lives.

-According to the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) there are currently four cases of coronavirus in Broward County. The FDOH has tied three of the four local cases to a cruise services company that operates at Port Everglades. All of the individuals are isolated and will remain isolated until cleared by public health officials.

-The Florida Department of Health recommends all individuals experiencing symptoms who have recently traveled through Port Everglades to immediately contact their County Health Department or health care provider and self-isolate for 14 days.

-The CDC recommends that individuals with recent travel history on a cruise to monitor their health for 14 days and, if they develop symptoms, to immediately self-isolate and contact their County Health Department or health care provider.

-Broward County has declared a local state of emergency and is operating their Emergency Operations Center at a Level 2 activation. Despite the Emergency Declaration, Broward County is maintaining normal business operations.

-The City of Fort Lauderdale continues to maintain close contact with Broward County, state and local health officials, and representatives from the healthcare, transportation, travel, and hospitality industries to monitor developments related to COVID-19.

-The City of Fort Lauderdale currently has no plans to cancel any events. The St. Patrick's Parade and Festival and the inaugural home opener for Inter Miami CF, both of which are taking place on Saturday, March 14, continue to move forward as planned.

-City staff in cooperation with event promoters, Police, Fire Rescue, and public safety personnel are working to implement additional precautionary measures to minimize the spread of germs. These include making sure there are additional hand-washing and hand-sanitizing stations at events, as well as additional cleaning and maintenance staff. We remind everyone, however, to please use common sense. If you are feeling ill, please stay home so you do not infect others.

-As we are in one of our busiest travel seasons of the year, the City of Fort Lauderdale remains in contact with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau and leaders from our hotel and hospitality industry to ensure that messages about preventative steps visitors can take are being communicated on a regular and consistent basis.

-Public safety is our top priority, and given the Coronavirus is a rapidly changing situation, the City of Fort Lauderdale stands ready to adjust its planning and response accordingly should future conditions warrant, including having emergency responses plan in place that will be implemented in cooperation with local, state and federal agencies and authorities.

-We encourage everyone to remain vigilant, continue to monitor developments, practice proper hygiene and healthy habits, and continue to take proper preventative actions.

How Does Coronavirus Spread?

Coronavirus can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth, including when an individual coughs or sneezes. These droplets may land on objects and surfaces. Other people may contract Coronavirus by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.

Symptoms of Coronavirus

Symptoms of Coronavirus may appear within two to 14 days after exposure and include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

Prevention

The CDC recommends taking everyday preventive actions, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and warm water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then throw the tissue in the trash immediately.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- If you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, please seek medical attention.

- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).

Should I be tested for Coronavirus?

-If you are concerned that you have been exposed to Coronavirus, please call the Florida Department of Health in Broward County at **954-412-7300** and your healthcare provider before traveling to any healthcare facility.

For More Information

-The Florida Department of Health has established a dedicated Coronavirus Call Center at **1-866-779-6121** that is available 24 hours a day seven days a week, as well as a dedicated email address at COVID-19@flhealth.gov which the public can use for questions or clarifications on issues related to the Coronavirus.

For additional information regarding Coronavirus, please visit www.floridahealth.gov or www.cdc.gov or www.fortlauderdale.gov/coronavirus.

To read the update on the City's website, please visit <http://bit.ly/38z5atX>